

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 /030 W

----- 123545

R 061615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WADHDC 1887

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0082

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU US

SUBJ: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: STATE 001016

1. WE SHARE DR. TRYPANIS' CONCERN ABOUT THE DEARTH OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES OF TURKEY AND GREECE. WE ALSO IMAGINE THAT WITHIN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND AMONG THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GROUPS IN BOTH COUNTRIES THERE IS GENERAL INTELLECTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA THAT ENLARGED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WOULD BE USEFUL. ON THE PRACTICAL LEVEL, HOWEVER, THE GOT -- AND WE SUSPECT THE GOG -- IS CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, MORE POLITICALLY REWARDING WAYS OF SPENDING LIMITED RESOURCES THAN FUNDING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH A COUNTRY WITH WHICH IT SHARES LONGSTANDING FEELINGS OF ANTAGONISM AND ENMITY THAT HAVE BEEN REVIVED BY RECENT EVENTS. MOREOVER, ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, TURKISH INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICIANS WOULD PREFER TO PARTICIPATE IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN OR NORTH AMERICAN NATIONS RATHER THAN WITH GREECE, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD EXPECT AN ANTIPATHETIC RECEPTION AND PARTLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT CONSIDER CONTACT WITH GREEK SOCIETY AS REWARDING AS CONTACT WITH MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

2. GIVEN THE ABOVE WE BELIEVE AN EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO FOSTER. A SECOND POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE FACTOR WOULD BE THE MISINTERPRETATION WHICH

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COULD BE ASSIGNED TO ANY U.S. ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP AN EXCHANGE

PROGRAM. OUR VULNERABILITIES ON SUBSTANTIVE, BILATERAL ISSUES ARE GREAT ENOUGH WITHOUT ASSUMING THOSE OCCASIONED BY ALLEGATIONS THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO "SELL GREEK CULTURE TO THE TURKS".

3. WE HAVE THEREFORE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THE RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN MOSHER MUST BE BASICALLY NEGATIVE WITH RESPECT TO U.S. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES. HOWEVER, WE OFFER TWO MORE POSITIVE THOUGHTS WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE ANSWER:

A. THE BALKAN CONFERENCE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY 26 WILL APPARENTLY HAVE A RELATIVELY OPEN AGENDA. THIS CONFERENCE MIGHT AFFORD DR. TRYPANIS AN OPPORTUNITY. GIVEN THE FACT THAT SUCH INCREASED EXCHANGES ARE CALLED FOR IN BASKET III OF THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE, IT WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE BALKAN CONFERENCE.

B. GREECE AND TURKEY SHARE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEGACY OF THE EMPIRES OF ANCIENT GREECE, ROME, AND IMPORTANT EARLIER CIVILIZATIONS. PERHAPS SOME NEUTRAL INSTITUTION SUCH AS THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC COULD BE PERSUADED TO ORGANIZE AT A NEUTRAL LOCATION SUCH AS ROME A CONFERENCE OR SERIES OF CONFERENCES FOR JOINT GREEK-ITALIAN-TURKISH (AND PERHAPS OTHERS) STUDY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME. THE PROGRAM OF SUCH CONFERENCES COULD INCLUDE TRAVEL TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND PERHAPS JOINT PROJECTS. THIS OF COURSE WOULD BE A SMALL PROGRAM TOUCHING ONLY A SEGMENT OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT IT MIGHT BE A BEGINNING.

4. THE ROLE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN EITHER OF THESE TWO SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES WOULD BE LIMITED TO STIMULATION OF INTEREST AND GENTLE ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOTH PARTIES TO MAKE USE OF THE ACTIVITIES TO EXPAND THEIR CONTACTS WITH EACH OTHER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-0175
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacxdn.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 1016
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006